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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY JULY 20, 2004

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 20, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

Sabah: As a result of ensuing clashes between PKK-Kongra Gel militants and GOT Forces in the rural Anadare region of Tatvan, Bitlis province, two militants were killed. The security forces launched a large scale operation in the area.

Sabah: Mus First Criminal Court pressed charges against the defunct HADEP National Chairman Murat Bozlak for playing a song by the famous Kurdish singer Sivan Perver during his election activities in Mus in October 2001. The court ruled that no other language, except Turkish, could be used in the political parties' meetings, and therefore sentenced Bozlak to six months of imprisonment. Bozlak appealed to the Supreme Court.

Yeni Safak: A research conducted by the Turkish General Staff revealed that 4,821 of the 90,000 village guards, who were employed since 1985 for combating the PKK in East and Southeastern Turkey, have been involved in various crimes and have been sentenced by courts. The report expressed that a village guard received 325,350,000.- Turkish Liras (Approximately \$220) per month as of January 1, 2004, and the total paid to 60,000 village guards on the payroll amounted to \$13 million a month. The report said 87,296 village guards were employed nationwide, and 28,754 were employed on voluntary basis. Currently, village guards are employed in 60 provinces. Village guards are mostly employed in the following towns: Hakkari (8,837), Diyarbakir (8,343), Van (8,340), Sirnak (7,870). The most frequent types of crimes the village guards have been involved in are "assisting and harboring the separatist organization, "terrorist incidents, smuggling, and crimes committed against individuals and property."

Zaman, Bolge, Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: It is reported that the runways at Incirlik Air Base will undergo a ten-day maintenance program.

Radikal: The Health Ministry built a health center in Esendere village of Yuksekova, Hakkari province, thirty years ago, appointing a nurse and a driver for the non-existing ambulance. No doctors have been appointed to the town whose population is roughly seven thousand. The patients from the town go to Iran for medical treatment. The children in the area have not received the required inoculations for the past three years.

Bolge: It is reported that, Gevri Arslan (70), the headman of Catalcam village in Dargecit, Mardin province, was killed by unidentified persons for unknown reasons.

Vakit: Based on a tip, the police from Anti-Organized Crimes and Smuggling Department of Yuksekova Security Directorate, Hakkari province, arrested five Iranians who had illegally entered into Turkey with 16.5 kilos of opium and 3.210 kilos of morphine. The Iranians are being detained in the Hakkari prison following their arraignment.

Zaman: The Tunceli Governorate announced that PKK-Kongra Gel militants attacking the Yenibas Jandarma Station in Hozat, Tunceli province, wounded a soldier. A large scale operation has been launched in the region to apprehend the militants.

Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: The Geology Engineer Tahir Ongor claimed that a Canadian firm was producing gold in an 82 hectare area in Tunceli using cyanide. The President of Tunceli Bar Association Attorney Huseyin Aygun said the Bar Association would develop a civil disobedience activity aiming environmental protection against the dams under construction in the region.

Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: Diyarbakir police arrested 38 demonstrators protesting the isolation detainment of Abdullah Ocalan, protesting inability to meet with his attorneys. Many demonstrators were beaten and dragged on the ground by police.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Hurriyet, Sabah (Guney Supplement), Turkiye: In a meeting organized by CUGIAD, The Cukurova Young Businessmen Association, discussed the future of the town with lawmakers, businessmen, and NGOs from Adana. The CUGIAD President Tarkan Kulak said Adana should be included in the government's Incentive Program, certain crops should be subsidized, and KOBIs, Small and Medium Sized Exploitations, should be granted long term loans with low interest rates.